國立清華大學103學年度碩士班考試入學試題

系所班組別:外國語文學系 外國文學組

考試科目(代碼):文本分析(3503)

1. T. S. Eliot once wrote that "No poet, no artist of any art, has his complete meaning alone. His significance, his appreciation is the appreciation of his relation to the dead poets and artists. You cannot value him alone; you must set him, for contrast and comparison, among the dead. I mean this as a principle of aesthetic, not merely historical, criticism." Please use the provided poem below to discuss the historical sense (which, according to Eliot, "involves a perception, not only of the pastness of the past, but of its presence") of W. B. Yeats, his aesthetic originality, the cultural and literary tradition which he has inherited and is responding to, and the significance of the work within its historical context. (50%)

The Second Coming W. B. Yeats

Turning and turning in the widening gyre The falcon cannot hear the falconer; Things fall apart; the centre cannot hold; Mere anarchy is loosed upon the world, The blood-dimmed tide is loosed, and everywhere The ceremony of innocence is drowned; The best lack all convictions, while the worst Are full of passionate intensity. Surely some revelation is at hand; Surely the Second Coming is at hand. The Second Coming! Hardly are those words out When a vast image out of Spiritus Mundi Troubles my sight: somewhere in sands of the desert A shape with lion body and the head of a man, A gaze blank and pitiless as the sun, Is moving its slow thighs, while all about it Reel shadows of the indignant desert birds. The darkness drops again; but now I know That twenty centuries of stony sleep

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Were vexed to nightmare by a rocking cradle, And what rough beast, its hour come round at last, Slouches towards Bethlehem to be born?

2. The following is a scene from Shakespeare's Julius Caesar, consisting two most famous examples for public speech. Please analyze both Brutus and Antony's speech (their tone, choice of words, level of diction, argument, persuasive strategies, etc.) and discuss its theatrical effects (in terms of public speech, of a scene in Julius Caesar, or of a public performance in late Elizabethan period). (50%)

Enter Brutus and later goes into the pulpit, and III.2 Cassius, with the Plebeians

PLEBEIANS We will be satisfied: let us be satisfied.

BRUTUS

Then follow me, and give me audience, friends.

Cassius, go you into the other street,

And part the numbers.

Those that will hear me speak, let 'em stay here;

Those that will follow Cassius, go with him;

And public reasons shall be renderèd

Of Caesar's death.

FIRST PLEBEIAN I will hear Brutus speak.

SECOND PLEBEIAN

I will hear Cassius, and compare their reasons,

When severally we hear them renderèd.

Exit Cassius, with some of the Plebeians

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THIRD PLEBEIAN

The noble Brutus is ascended. Silence!

BRUTUS Be patient till the last.

Romans countrymen and lovers

Romans, countrymen, and lovers, hear me for my cause, and be silent, that you may hear. Believe me for mine honour, and have respect to mine honour, that you may

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believe. Censure me in your wisdom, and awake your senses, that you may the better judge. If there be any in this assembly, any dear friend of Caesar's, to him I say that Brutus' love to Caesar was no less than his. If then that friend demand why Brutus rose against Caesar, this is my answer: not that I loved Caesar less, but that I loved Rome more. Had you rather Caesar were living, and die all slaves, than that Caesar were dead, to live all free men? As Caesar loved me, I weep for him; as he was fortunate, I rejoice at it; as he was valiant, I honour him; but, as he was ambitious, I slew him. There is tears for his love; joy for his fortune; honour for his valour; and death for his ambition. Who is here so base that would be a bondman? If any, speak; for him have I offended. Who is here so rude that would not be a Roman? If any, speak; for him have I offended. Who is here so vile that will not love his country? If any, speak; for him have I offended. I pause for a reply.

ALL None, Brutus, none.

BRUTUS Then none have I offended. I have done no more to Caesar than you shall do to Brutus. The question of his death is enrolled in the Capitol; his glory not extenuated, wherein he was worthy; nor his offences enforced, for which he suffered death.

Enter Mark Antony and others, with Caesar's body
Here comes his body, mourned by Mark Antony, who,
though he had no hand in his death, shall receive the
benefit of his dying, a place in the commonwealth, as
which of you shall not? With this I depart, that, as I
slew my best lover for the good of Rome, I have the
same dagger for myself, when it shall please my country
to need my death.

ALL Live, Brutus! live! live!

FIRST PLEBEIAN

Bring him with triumph home unto his house.

SECOND PLEBEIAN

Give him a statue with his ancestors.

THIRD PLEBEIAN

Let him be Caesar.

FOURTH PLEBEIAN Caesar's better parts

Shall be crowned in Brutus.

FIRST PLEBEIAN

We'll bring him to his house with shouts and clamours.

BRUTUS

My countrymen -

SECOND PLEBEIAN Peace! Silence! Brutus speaks.

FIRST PLEBEIAN Peace, ho!

BRUTUS

Good countrymen, let me depart alone, And, for my sake, stay here with Antony. Do grace to Caesar's corpse, and grace his speech Tending to Caesar's glories, which Mark Antony, By our permission, is allowed to make.

I do entreat you, not a man depart,

Save I alone, till Antony have spoke.

Exit

FIRST PLEBEIAN

Stay, ho! and let us hear Mark Antony.

THIRD PLEBEIAN

Let him go up into the public chair; We'll hear him. Noble Antony, go up.

ANTONY

For Brutus' sake, I am beholding to you.

FOURTH PLEBEIAN

What does he say of Brutus?

THIRD PLEBEIAN

He says, for Brutus' sake

He finds himself beholding to us all.

FOURTH PLEBEIAN

'Twere best he speak no harm of Brutus here!

FIRST PLEBEIAN

This Caesar was a tyrant.
THIRD PLEBEIAN

Nay, that's certain.

We are blest that Rome is rid of him.

SECOND PLEBEIAN

Peace! let us hear what Antony can say.

ANTONY

You gentle Romans -

SECOND PLEBEIAN Peace, ho! let us hear him.

ANTONY

Friends, Romans, countrymen, lend me your ears; I come to bury Caesar, not to praise him.

The evil that men do lives after them,
The good is oft interrèd with their bones;
So let it be with Caesar. The noble Brutus
Hath told you Caesar was ambitious.

If it were so, it was a grievous fault,
And grievously hath Caesar answered it.
Here, under leave of Brutus and the rest—
For Brutus is an honourable man;
So are they all, all honourable men—
Come I to speak in Caesar's funeral.
He was my friend, faithful and just to me;
But Brutus says he was ambitious,
And Brutus is an honourable man.

He hath brought many captives home to Rome,

Whose ransoms did the general coffers fill:

Did this in Caesar seem ambitious?

When that the poor have cried, Caesar hath wept;

Ambition should be made of sterner stuff:

Yet Brutus says he was ambitious,

And Brutus is an honourable man.

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I thrice presented him a kingly crown,
Which he did thrice refuse. Was this ambition?
Yet Brutus says he was ambitious,
And sure he is an honourable man.
I speak not to disprove what Brutus spoke,
But here I am to speak what I do know.
You all did love him once, not without cause;
What cause withholds you then to mourn for him?
O judgement! thou art fled to brutish beasts,
And men have lost their reason. Bear with me;
My heart is in the coffin there with Caesar,
And I must pause till it come back to me.

FIRST PLEBEIAN

Methinks there is much reason in his sayings.

SECOND PLEBEIAN

If thou consider rightly of the matter, Caesar has had great wrong.

THIRD PLEBEIAN

Has he, masters?

I fear there will a worse come in his place.

FOURTH PLEBEIAN

Marked ye his words? He would not take the crown; Therefore 'tis certain he was not ambitious.

FIRST PLEBEIAN

If it be found so, some will dear abide it.

SECOND PLEBEIAN

Poor soul! His eyes are red as fire with weeping.
THIRD PLEBEIAN

There's not a nobler man in Rome than Antony.

FOURTH PLEBEIAN

Now mark him; he begins again to speak.

ANTONY

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But yesterday the word of Caesar might Have stood against the world; now lies he there, And none so poor to do him reverence. O masters! If I were disposed to stir Your hearts and minds to mutiny and rage, I should do Brutus wrong, and Cassius wrong, Who, you all know, are honourable men. I will not do them wrong; I rather choose To wrong the dead, to wrong myself and you, Than I will wrong such honourable men. But here's a parchment with the seal of Caesar; I found it in his closet; 'tis his will. Let but the commons hear this testament, Which, pardon me, I do not mean to read, And they would go and kiss dead Caesar's wounds, And dip their napkins in his sacred blood, Yea, beg a hair of him for memory, And, dying, mention it within their wills, Bequeathing it as a rich legacy Unto their issue.

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FOURTH PLEBEIAN

We'll hear the will. Read it, Mark Antony.

The will, the will! We will hear Caesar's will!

ANTONY

Have patience, gentle friends; I must not read it. It is not meet you know how Caesar loved you. You are not wood, you are not stones, but men; And being men, hearing the will of Caesar, It will inflame you, it will make you mad. 'Tis good you know not that you are his heirs; For if you should, O, what would come of it?

FOURTH PLEBEIAN

Read the will! We'll hear it, Antony!
You shall read us the will, Caesar's will!
ANTONY

Will you be patient? Will you stay awhile?

I have o'ershot myself to tell you of it.

I fear I wrong the honourable men

I fear I wrong the honourable men
Whose daggers have stabbed Caesar; I do fear it.
FOURTHPLEBEIAN They were traitors. Honourable men!
ALL The will! The testament!
SECOND PLEBEIAN They were villains, murderers! The will! Read the will!

ANTONY

You will compel me then to read the will?
Then make a ring about the corpse of Caesar,
And let me show you him that made the will.
Shall I descend? And will you give me leave?
ALL Come down.

Antony comes down from the pulpit SECOND PLEBEIAN Descend.
THIRD PLEBEIAN You shall have leave.
FOURTH PLEBEIAN A ring! Stand round.
FIRST PLEBEIAN

Stand from the hearse! Stand from the body! SECOND PLEBEIAN

Room for Antony, most noble Antony!
ANTONY

Nay, press not so upon me; stand far off.

ALL Stand back! Room! Bear back!

ANTONY

If you have tears, prepare to shed them now.
You all do know this mantle. I remember
The first time ever Caesar put it on;
'Twas on a summer's evening in his tent,
That day he overcame the Nervii.
Look, in this place ran Cassius' dagger through;

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III.2

See what a rent the envious Casca made; Through this, the well-beloved Brutus stabbed, And as he plucked his cursèd steel away, Mark how the blood of Caesar followed it, As rushing out of doors, to be resolved If Brutus so unkindly knocked or no; For Brutus, as you know, was Caesar's angel. Judge, O you gods, how dearly Caesar loved him! This was the most unkindest cut of all; For when the noble Caesar saw him stab, Ingratitude, more strong than traitors' arms, Quite vanquished him: then burst his mighty heart; And in his mantle muffling up his face, Even at the base of Pompey's statue, Which all the while ran blood, great Caesar fell. O, what a fall was there, my countrymen! Then I, and you, and all of us fell down, Whilst bloody treason flourished over us. O, now you weep, and I perceive you feel The dint of pity. These are gracious drops. Kind souls, what weep you when you but behold

Antony plucks off the mantle

FIRST PLEBEIAN O piteous spectacle!

SECOND PLEBEIAN O noble Caesar!

THIRD PLEBEIAN O woeful day!

FOURTH PLEBEIAN O traitors! villains!

FIRST PLEBEIAN O most bloody sight!

SECOND PLEBEIAN We will be revenged.

ALL Revenge! About! Seek! Burn! Fire! Kill! Slay! Let not a traitor live.

ANTONY Stay, countrymen.

FIRST PLEBEIAN Peace there! Hear the noble Antonvi

Our Caesar's vesture wounded? Look you here,

Here is himself, marred, as you see, with traitors.